

START CHILDREN OFF ON THE WAY THEY SHOULD GO, AND EVEN WHEN THEY ARE OLD THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM IT. PROVERBS 22:6 NIV THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR 6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER APRIL 23, 2023

"WELCOME TO THE MOTHER CHURCH"

"Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Give thanks unto Him and bless His name". Psalm 100:4 Grace and Peace to you from God on the **Third Sunday of**

Easter, Youth and Young Adult Sunday.

On behalf of the Clergy, Wardens, Vestry, and People of God, welcome to the historic African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas, founded in 1792 as the first Black Episcopal Church in the U.S.A. The first rector of this historic parish, The Rev. Fr. Absalom Jones was also the first Black Episcopal priest in the nation.

Our parish boldly proclaims the reconciling Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are an active, mission-minded, and growing church family. Whomever you are and wherever you may find yourself on your spiritual journey of faith, you are always welcomed at St. Thomas' Church, where we are joyfully and enthusiastically committed to Jesus' message of love, hope, prayer, acceptance, and faith. Today, as you worship in this place, may you experience and feel the presence of the Lord, and may you leave feeling renewed, refreshed, and revived. Faithfully,

The Very Rev. Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector and Dean of the Schuylkill Deanery

Please click on the link provided or the Order of Service for this Sunday.

From the Rector: Whoever you may be and however you may find yourself experiencing life's journey, do know that St. Thomas Church welcomes you.



IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The wearing of masks **is now optional**, **however, strongly recommended**.

Masks are available for all in attendance if needed. **Hand sanitizer** is also available.

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE: The only doors for entry on Sunday mornings are: the Front doors of the church and the front **ambulatory door** of the church. Please refrain from using other doors at this time.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Sisterhood Guild will meet on Saturday, **May 6th** at Noon in Anderson Hall.



We are very pleased to announce the call of:

the Rev. Fr. Daren Evans to the position of: Associate to the Rector for Parish Life and Youth Ministries. His appointment comes at a time when we are "Re-imagining" our ministry to young families and Spanish-speaking members. Fr. Daren is a native of the Island of Jamaica, and a priest from the Diocese of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands. He most recently served in

the Spanish-speaking Diocese of Costa Rica, in the role of Dean of La Catedral El Buen Pastor and Diocesan Youth Coordinator. To relax, Fr. Daren "enjoys traveling, playing the piano, engaging in community involvement, farming, and plotting how to live off the grid".

We look forward to welcoming Fr. Daren Evans to the City of Philadelphia and St. Thomas Church. He will officially join us on June 1, 2023. To God be the glory!

Pictures from the Second Sunday of Easter April 16, 2023

More pictures may be found on our <u>Facebook page</u>.







UPCOMING SUNDAYS IN APRIL / MAY

April 30th - Health Awareness Sunday. Our guest speaker will be Katie Galbraith, President of Lankenau Medical Center.

> **April 30th** - Men are Cooking after service in Anderson Hall. See Flyer for more information.

May 14th - Mother's Day

May 21st- Graduate Sunday

May 28th - Pentecost Sunday -Wear something red.

If you speak a language other than English, ie: German, Swahili, Spanish, etc, and would like to be a part of the service, please contact the church office.

OUR CONDOLENCES to Theresa Shields and family on the death of her husband, **John.** Funeral services will be held at St. Thomas, **Tuesday**, **April 25, 2023**. The viewing will be at 10 am with the requiem mass following at **11:00 AM** Please pray for the family.

to Quentin Heyward and family on the death of his mother, **Rebecca Antoinette Battiste**. The viewing and Wake service will be held at Adams Funeral Home, 510 Stephenson Ave, Savannah, GA 31405, **Friday, April 28, 2023 - 5:00-6:30 PM.** The graveside Service: Hillcrest Abbey East Cemetery, 1600 Wheaton St, Savannah, GA 31404, **Saturday, April 29, 2023 - 11:00 AM**. May the soul of Antoinette rest in peace and rise in eternal glory. Please pray for the family.

O.V. CATTO VOTER EDUCATION MINISTRY

ROAD TO THE PRIMARY Voting With Purpose

THE OCTAVIUS V

OCTAVIUS

WANTS

YOU

TO

SPRINGTIME ELECTION SERIES

POWER Mayoral forum Off-Site (must register)| Open Forums with candidates & officials | Social Engagement and much more... *Check weekly updates in AECST Facebook/ Spearhead

> For more information contact Wendella Fox wpfox3008@verizon.net

<u>DATE(S):</u>

• *Sunday April 16th (Off Site Must Register 3pm-6pm)

- Saturday April 22nd
- Saturday April 29th
- Saturday May 6th

<u>Time:</u> 1:00pm - 3:00pm

Doors open at 12:30pm

L<u>ocation:</u> St. Thomas 6361 Lancaster Ave Phila PA 19151 - Anderson Hall

PRIMARY ELECTION: TUES MAY 16TH

The African Episcopal Church of St.Thomas The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector www.AECST.org. www.FACEBOOK.com/AECST1792

TO OUR ST. THOMAS FAMILY

A huge Thank- you to All who registered & attended the April 16, 2023 POWER Mayoral Forum from the leadership of the Catto Ministry. Approximately 500 people attended individual sessions with 4 candidates -- Helen Gym, David Oh, Cherelle Parker and Rebecca Rhynhart, for more than an hour as the candidates responded to a series of 15 questions. Attendees submitted a scorecard which POWER is tabulating. The results will be shared with us and the candidates. Please stay tuned because we plan to share the results with the congregation.

Exciting times are ahead for the Catto Ministry. On 4/22, we will hear from Folks about the responsibilities of the City Commissioners and City Controller offices. On 4/29, we anticipate hearing from judicial candidates. On 5/6, we anticipate learning more about the ballot, ballot questions and any tips for voting in person on Election Day [5/16]. These will take place from 1:00 – 3:00 PM in Anderson Hall. All are Welcome & bring a friend or two.

After the Pennsylvania Primary on May 16, we anticipate having a meeting or two to plan next steps and other activities. All are Welcome to join!

Ernestine Johnson, Greg Lyles, Ted Smith, Wendella Fox & Greg Allen

AECST LIVE STREAM

Please join us for Worship on the St. Thomas <u>website</u>, the <u>Live</u> <u>Service</u>, or on our <u>Facebook</u> page or <u>youtube</u> every Sunday morning at 10 am. You can also watch <u>Past Services</u> and <u>Highlights</u> from past services.



The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas • First Black Episcopal Church in the USA The Very Reverend Canon Martini Shaw, 17th Rector 6361 Lancaster Avenue (Absalom Jones Way) • Philadelphia, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 www.aecst.org • www.facebook.com/aecst1792

ST. THOMAS GOSPEL CHOIR NEWS

On Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 4 pm the STGC will be singing at Rosemont College, 1400 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA for their World Culture Festival.

On Sunday, **April 30, 2023**, at 6:00 PM the STGC will be singing at **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints**, 1682 Wood Street (just off of Callowhill St.) in an Interfaith Music Concert with members of the Church of Latter-Day Saints. The Concert is free and parking will be validated. More Information coming soon.

join us GOSPEL MUSIC NIGHT

An interfaith celebration of our Savior in conjunction with the St. Thomas Gospel Choir

6pm Sunday, April 30 1682 Wood St. Philadelphia, PA

Free garage parking on 18th between Vine St. & Wood St.

> THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS



CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS

On Sunday, **April 23, 2023**, Dr. Jay and the Philadelphia Community Mass Choir, present the complete Spirituals Mass by Clayton White. With guest soloists Valerie Gay and Paul Spencer Adkins.



The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr. Memorial Scholarship The Schuylkill Deanery of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Review Committee

Jean Fowler

Marcia L. Hinton, Chair

Meredith Wiggins

The Reverend Canon Thomas Wilson Stearly Logan, Sr.

March 19, 1912-May 2, 2012



Education and achievement were very important to, and stressed by the Logan family. Throughout his life, he was surrounded by accomplished men and women and he was encouraged to make his own significant contributions to society.

He graduated from Central High School and attended Johnson C. Smith University and Lincoln University graduating in 1935. He

earned a Bachelor of Sacred Theology from General Theological Seminary (GTS) in New York City, and a Masters of Sacred Theology from Philadelphia Divinity School in 1941. Father Logan also received five honorary doctorates, including Lincoln University, Hampton University and St. Augustine's College.

Father Logan selflessly devoted over seventy-three years of his life to the Episcopal Church. At the time of his death, he was the oldest serving African American priest in the Episcopal Church, USA.



More information and an application can be found at the link provided.



2023 ANNUAL WOMEN'S DAY GELEBRATION "Celebrating 40 Years"



Sunday June 4, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Theme: "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.

But the greatest of these is LOVE" 1 Corinthians 13:13

GUEST SPEAKER: THE HONORABLE JOANNA MCCLINTON FIRST WOMAN ELECTED PA SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE



If you are physically unable to attend, please join us virtually via our website, YouTube, or Facebook pages. THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS • FIRST BLACK EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE USA THE VERY REVEREND CANON MARTINI SHAW, 17TH RECTOR 6361 LANCASTER AVENUE (ABSALOM JONES WAY) • PHILADELPHIA, PA 19151 • (215) 473-3065 WWW.AECST.ORG • WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/AECST1792

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers on the Columbarium are in Loving Memory of my wife, **Phyllis Johnson,** given by Bobby Johnson.

To order flowers, please return the form with payment to: Clare Mae Daniels or Alfreda Brockman.

- __ I would like to place flowers on the High Altar \$60
- _ I would like to place flowers on the Absalom Jones Altar \$50.
- __ I would like to place flowers on the Columbarium \$40.

(Please PRINT/ TYPE. You may use an additional piece of paper for more names.)

A) In memory of	
B) In Thanksgiving for	
Given by	
Envelope #	Amount \$

Attention AECST Students!

The Jesse F. Anderson Scholarship Fund applications for St Thomas Book Awards are available for graduating high school seniors who are members of AECST and plan to attend a school of higher learning in the Fall. Applications are also available for AECST Members who are enrolled in a full-time Graduate Program. Application Deadline: May 15, 2023. For more information contact Paula Lamb (high school seniors), Diana Hutchins, (Graduate Students) or Thomasina Hack.

A ST. THOMAS HEALTH MINISTRY NOTE

STAY UP TO DATE with vaccinating against COVID-19 and the Flu. The new COVID-19 (Bivalent) booster is now available for anyone 12 and over.
For guidelines on when to get your booster go to the CDC or consult with your doctor's office. Both the COVID-19 booster and the Flu vaccine are available at local pharmacies (RiteAid, CVS and Walgreens).
Go on their website to schedule an appointment.

SPEARHEAD NEWSLETTER EMAILS

If you are not receiving the Spearhead emails, please use the <u>Newsletter</u> sign up link. Your information will NEVER be shared or sold and you can **UNsubscribe** at anytime by following the instructions provided at the bottom of every email message.

If you are a member of St. Thomas and wish to participate in a **monthly Vestry meeting** via Zoom, you must notify the Vestry Clerk. Send an email to <u>vestryclerk@aecst.org</u> at least two days prior to the meeting. You will then receive the link needed to join the meeting. Vestry meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM.

DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

Have you ever thought about using that talent to glorify God in worship? Please prayerfully consider joining our St. Thomas Jazz Ensemble. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office ASAP to get details on upcoming scheduled rehearsals.

Nikkol SImms Branch Advisor njsimms@verizon.net

> For more info: http://gfsus.org/

Find us on Facebook! GFS PA African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas

GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

GFS is ready to begin a new year of worship, study, play and service! We are excited to recharge our continuous mission of uplifting our young ladies and preparing them for today's society. We are also preparing for this year's theme to Love, Serve, and Grow and remembering our 75 years of legacy at St. Thomas.

Membership Ages: Teddy Bears: 3-5 yo. Junior Members: 5-13 yo. Senior Members: 14-21 yo. Ambassadors: 18-30 yo.

Meetings

begin

Oct. I, 2022

Ilam-Ipm

Girls participate in: Service Projects Girl Talks Arts & Crafts World Day of Prayer Founder's Day Mission Day GFS Day Past Recreational Opportunities: White water rafting Theaters Museums Ice Skating Segway/Ziplining Mini Golf Holiday House in Cape May, NJ

JOIN THE GIRLS FRIENDLY SOCIETY!

Meetings are from 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM. All girls aged 3 - 30 are welcome. Girls participate in: service projects, girl talks, arts & crafts, World Day of Prayer, Founder's Day, Mission Day and GFS Day along with trips to the theater, museums, ice skating, mini golf, trips to the Pumpkin Patch and Holiday House in Cape, May, NJ. If you would like to volunteer as a leader or sponsor, please contact our Branch Advisor, <u>Nikkol Simms</u>

Please help support our St. Thomas GFS Branch with a love donation. Donations will go to helping them go on their Founders' Day trip to Washington D.C. in March and World Council in South Africa August 3-11, 2023. If you have any questions, please contact <u>Nikkol Simms.</u>

CHURCH SCHOOL

is held in the undercroft at **10:00 AM** for Youth ages 4 through High School. The theme for this church school year is "The Lord's Prayer".

Join us as we RE-Imagine our Church School Adventures with Prayer, Fellowship, Programs, and Fun! Register in person or contact **Dottie Archey** for more information or 215 837-6941.

SCOUT TROOP #133 -

Our Cub Scout Program is open to boys grades 1-5. The Cub program meets at 2:00 PM on Saturdays.

The Scout Program is open to children aged 11-17 years old. The Scout Program will meet at 3:00 PM on Saturdays according to the schedule.

Please contact Scout Master <u>Howard Chapman</u> for more information.

RE-IMAGINING OUR MINISTRIES Persons are needed:

-to lift their voices on the **Comfort Choir** during funeral services at St. Thomas. Please contact **D. Lynn Joell** if interested.

-to serve with the **Sound Ministry** for Sunday morning service and weekday funeral services. If interested, please contact Gladyce in the Parish Office.

-to serve on the **Altar Guild**. This amazing group of individuals prepares our altar each week for the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Interested people should contact <u>Alfreda Brockman.</u>

-to serve as **Readers and Intercessors** to read the Holy Scripture during our weekly services. Interested persons should contact Gladyce in the Parish Office to sign up.

-to join the **Transportation Ministry**. The main mission of the ministry is to provide transportation to parishioners who attend Sunday Service who may be parked in a nearby remote parking lot. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-as **Acolytes** to serve on the altar. Please contact **Gladyce** in the office if you are interested.

-Photography Ministry is in need of additional photographers. You do not need to be a professional photographer but do enjoy taking pictures. Anyone interested can contact <u>Bill</u> <u>Edmonds</u> or <u>Dale Williams.</u>

-The Shepherds Ministry is still in need of many more volunteers to be able to shepherd all households of our congregation. Shepherds set their own schedules to be in regular touch with their households of sheep by phone, email, text or various social media platforms. Each is assigned no more than 4 households. All Ministry meetings are held via Zoom. Please note that the Vestry will continue to shepherd, for one year, all new members joining the congregation. For more information, or to volunteer, please contact <u>Charlene M.</u> <u>Wiltshire.</u>

Readings for the Third Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023

The First Lesson: <u>Acts 2:14a,36-41</u> Psalm <u>116:1-3,10-17</u> The Second Lesson:<u>1 Peter 1:17-23</u> The Holy Gospel: <u>Luke 24:13-35</u>

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of April 24, 2023

> Monday - <u>Luke 4:14-30</u> Tuesday - <u>Luke 4:31-37</u> Wednesday - <u>John 17:20-26</u> Thursday - <u>Luke 3:1-14</u> Friday - <u>Luke 3:15-22</u> Saturday - <u>Luke 4:1-13</u>

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Easter April 30, 2023

> The First Lesson: <u>Acts 2:42-47</u> <u>Psalm 23</u>

The Second Lesson: <u>1 Peter 2:19-25</u> The Holy Gospel: <u>John 10:1-10</u>

The Holy Gospel Readings for the Week of May 1, 2023 Monday - <u>Luke 6:1-11</u> Tuesday - <u>Luke 6:12-26</u> Wednesday - <u>Luke 6:27-38</u> Thursday - <u>Luke 6:39-49</u> Friday - <u>Luke 7:1-17</u> Saturday - <u>Luke 7:18-28 (29-30) 31-35</u>

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ARE:

IN REHAB:

Nora Corbin- Little Flower Rehab; Linda Holmes, Fr. Darryl James.

RECOVERING AT HOME:

Rosalind Rodriquez, Alletta Parris-Olday, Harold Yates, Dr. Walter Bantom, William Smalls, Leatrice Snowden. Pearl Henderson, Fr. Jay Collins, Teri Taylor, Calvin Thompson. Nia Mathurin, Tyrone Keller.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Louise Lewis, Adinah Edwards, Robert Brown, Justin Trotman, Georgia Sawyer, Shirley Caldwell, Stephanie Williamson, Francina Norris, Leotta Griffith, Ridart "Butch" Farmer, Kenneth Dow, Gwendolyn Langford, Eleanor Chestnut, Dorothy Smith, Alice Bowman-Cropper, Daryn Stewart, Joan Hall, Sheryl Johnson, Shirley Winkfield, Dr. Thomas Snowden, Lemont Johnson, Dr. Walter Bantom, Bill Edmonds.

WE PRAY FOR

those who are Incarcerated and their families, as well as those affected by their actions.

ST. THOMAS COLUMBARIUM INURNMENT

If you have a loved one who has passed away in the last year and would like to schedule a St. Thomas columbarium inurnment, please contact the church office at 215-473-3065.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

If you have moved and have not sent your new address to the church office at 215-473-3065 or <u>email</u>, **please do so ASAP.** The church has received many returned mailings because of bad addresses. We would appreciate your new address, phone number, and email address. Thanks so much for your help with this.

If you have decided to use the **Givi App** or <u>Online Giving</u> <u>Donations</u>, please email your name and envelope number. Thank you very much. -Judy Tillman

A list of the Sick and Shut-In parishioners has been put in Anderson Hall with the Offering Envelopes. If you live near a parishioner who is unable to come to church, it would be much appreciated if you could slot their envelopes. Thank you.

CAPITAL BUILDING IMPROVEMENT CAMPAIGN

Thank you to all who have contributed to the fund. Everyone is asked to please make a minimum sacrificial gift of \$40 per month. Please use the envelope from your packet or place Building Fund in the Memo section of your check or click the Donation Button or Capital Improvement **Donation Button** on our **website**.

WAYS TO CONTINUE TO BE FAITHFUL TO GOD AND THE CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP

"To whom much is given, much is required." Luke 12:48

- 1) Sunday Offering Plate.
- Mail in your check or money order to the church. Please use the following address: The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas c/o Fiscal Administrator.
 6361 Lancaster Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19151
- 3) Use the Givi app. If you don't already use the app and don't have an account, it's easy to obtain. Please click the links below for the type of device you own to download the givi app (givi IOS App) for your Apple (iPhone, iPad, or iPod touch) or (givi Android App) for your Android device. If you have any questions, please speak with Deadra Cannon, 215-844-6115.
- 4) **Bring your check** directly to the Parish Office during regular business hours. After business hours, drop your envelope in the door mail slot located on the front patio of the Absalom Jones House.
- 5) **Church website** <u>Online Giving</u> Simply select the button/s on the page that represents where you'd like your payment to be applied, i.e. your pledge, the AJ House, Easter, etc.
- 6) Pledge Cards: Pledge cards can now be sent for 2023. Please send them via the US mail to the church or electronically by clicking this link <u>Click></u> or send an email to our <u>Fiscal Administrator</u>. Thank you so much and thank you to all who have sent them in.

MINISTRY STAFF

Bishop Rector Associate to the Rector Associate Priest Associate Minister Associate Minister Executive Asst to Rector Fiscal Administor Sexton Asst Sexton Chancel Choirmaster Gospel Choirmaster Rector's General Counsel

Altar Guild Baptism Co-Chairs

Church School Superintendent Dottie Archey Ed Muse Photogrphy Ministry William Edmonds Fiscal Advisor to the Rector Deadra Cannon

Girls Friendly Society Jazz Ensemble Director Live Stream Ministry

Memorial Flowers

Monarch Greeters Ministry Parish Vergers

Parish Webmaster Property Chair Scout Pack 133

Stewardship ChairJudy TillmanTransportation MinistryVideography MinistryVideography MinistryQuentin HeywardVoices of ComfortRobert DavenportWilliam Burke Ushers MinistryArlene Singletary

The Rt. Rev. Daniel G P Gutierrez The Very Rev. Cannon Martini Shaw rector@aecst.org

The Rev. Fr. Gerald Collins The Rev. Dr. Thomas G. Snowden The Rev. Dr. Paul Bach Gladyce DuBrey Jeannette Jeffrey LaDon Elliott David McGilberry Jay Fluellen, DMA Waltier Blocker Joe Tucker, Esq

Alfreda Brockman Gail Hinton Harris Patricia Walker-Ellison Dottie Archey William Edmonds Deadra Cannon

Nikkol Simms Joe Stevens Yaseen Farooq Terri Tillman Alfreda Brockmam Clare Mae Daniels Roy Ellison Stephen Hannum Karen Ragland Gail Hinton Harris William Burke Howard Chapman Arlene Gray Judy Tillman associatepriest@aecst.org dravidian@comcast.net pauljaybach@gmail.com 1792@aecst.org fiscal@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org 1792@aecst.org chancelchoir@aecst.org gospelchoir@aecst.org jtucker@tigattorneys.com

fredabee@verizon.net thegail@hotmail.com p.walker.ellison@gmail.com churchschool@aecst.org edmon57@comcast.net assistantfiscal@aecst.org

njsimms@verizon.net jobopss@aol.com livevideo@aecst.org

fredabee@verizon.net happycmd05@aol.com s.royellison@gmail.com 1792@aecst.org Kdrags415@gmail.com webmanager@aecst.org property@aecst.org howchapman@gmail.com bsapack0133@gmail.com stewardship@aecst.org

recordedvideo@aecst.org robertnewtondavenport@gmail.com leaniepo@verizon.net

THE VESTRY

Rector's Warden - Richard Jones Accounting Warden - Deborah Camp Frye Clerk of the Vestry - Clare Mae Daniels Treasurer - Albert S. Dandridge, III Esq.

> Brenda Johnson Best Judith Simkins Booth William Burke Deadra Cannon Wendella Fox, Esq. Marie Golson Deborah Harrison D. Lynn Joell Kelvin Johnson Jonathan Muse Judith Tillman

THE AUXILIARY VESTRY

Conchetta Brewer Ronnie Collins Eugene Golson Dr. Monica Johnson Taylor Pamela Johnson Patricia Lynch Cynthia Muse Darryle "Bobby" Tillman

THE AFRICAN EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS is a

Christ-centered community that welcomes all people. This community embraces and executes the core values of our founder, the Reverend Absalom Jones: leadership, morality, spirituality, equal rights, education, liberty, charity, justice, humanitarianism, self-determination, self-respect, and freedom.

St. Thomas is an open, Christ-centered community of faith in which the Gospel is re-imaged, taught, lived and spread.